

**ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT APPROVAL** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATE BOARD MEETING DATE** December 3, 2007

**SUBJECT:** New 2007-2008 Targeted High Needs Initiative Grant

**SUBMITTED BY:** Jan Amator, Deputy Associate Superintendent of Highly Qualified Professionals

**MANAGEMENT TEAM REVIEW:** November 8, 2007

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The purpose of the 2007-08 Targeted High Needs Initiative (THNI) grants is to increase the number of National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) that serve poor and minority students. Our proposal targets middle grade and high school math and science teachers in inner city schools in the City of Phoenix.

There are thirteen elementary school districts that serve the City of Phoenix and feed into Phoenix Union High School (the only high school district serving the City of Phoenix). These districts have nearly 100% of their students qualifying as economically disadvantaged and have a considerable number of English Language Learners. Arizona currently has just 378 NBCTs and only 23 are serving this high need area.

The success of this group would establish a base of NBCTs to provide support for others in their districts to go through National Board Certification.

The Arizona Department of Education is centrally located for these districts and would serve as the meeting hub for the teachers participating in this project. The Arizona Department of Education has several resources at its disposal including several NBCTs on staff so that teachers have an opportunity to participate in quality professional development that will improve student achievement over time as well as earn National Board Certification.

As studies have shown, the practices of NBCTs increase student achievement. The children in this area are in great need of having such teachers. It is our hope that this focused approach will benefit both students and teachers and serve as a model for the future.

The role of the department would be to build on the current National Board Subsidy Program by pairing the THNI project with other recruitment efforts. There is a \$31,500 budget associated with the grant but no money will come into the department. The department will serve as a flow through agency only. The main role of the department is to coordinate the logistics, recruit candidates, pre-candidacy course trainings, submit subsidy requests to the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, and recommend NBCTs to mentor THNI candidates.

The grant will be overseen by current staff that works with the National Board Subsidy Program.

**BOARD ACTION REQUESTED: [X] INFORMATION [X] ACTION/DESCRIBED BELOW**

That the Board accept the Targeted High Needs Initiative Grant of \$31,500.

**ATTACHMENTS: YES [ X] NO [ ]**